



TM

WASHRAG



VOLUME 21 ISSUE 03
MARCH 2019

Wireless Association of South Hills



N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B

www.n3sh.org www.washarc.org



Wireless Association of South Hills



WASHRAG™



VOLUME 21 ISSUE 03

MARCH 2019

Next Monthly Meeting: Thursday, March 7th, 2019

The next meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be on **Thursday, March 7th 2019**, in the Conference Room at the **St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park, by South Hills Village & Village Square** (map on the back page). The room is available at 6:30 PM. The meeting will be starting at 7:00 PM.

Subjects for the meeting include **WASHFest 2019** wrap-up, Pizza!, and upcoming plans for 2019.

See you there!

Cover Photos: Scenes from WASHFest 2019. Many more photos inside!

Cover Photos courtesy of & © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN

WASH 2019 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Tony Romano KB3BYA
VP / Secretary	Dan Campbell K3CMU
VP / Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH Trustee	Larry Comden K3VX
WA3SH Trustee	Rich Danko N3SBF
NP2SH Trustee	Paul Jordan NP2JF
N3SH WA3SH NP2SH/B QSL Manager	Ron Notarius W3WN
NP2SH 2009 QSL Manager	Carl Schroeder K9CS
VE Team Liaison	Ron Notarius W3WN
Webmaster	Curtis Turner KB3CMT
Quartermaster	Harold Rosenberger K3HCR
WASH FM Net Manager	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
WASHFest 2019 Committee	Carol Danko KB3GMN, Chairman
	Bill Hill W3WH, Co-Chair
Activities & Operating Events	Rick Bell KB3IAC
Ways & Means	Carol Danko KB3GMN
WASH 2M Contest Chair	Chuck Bihun KC3ELA
Field Day 2019 Coordinators	Rick Bell KB3IAC
	Bill Hill W3WH

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS, BEACONS, & DIGIPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3SH / R	146.955 MHz (-)	PL 131.8
North Side	N3SH / R	442.550 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3FB / R	443.650 MHz (+)	PL 131.8
St. Johns, VI	NP2SH / B	28.276 MHz	Propagation Beacon
Canonsburg	N3SH	144.390 MHz	APRS Digipeater

N3SH / WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every

Monday Night, 8:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters.

All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

THE LEGAL STUFF

"The WASHRag™" (formerly "The Mariner™") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**, a 501.C.3 not for profit organization.

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Editor & Publisher: Ron Notarius W3WN

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, it's members, or it's actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners & operators of both the N3SH/R Repeaters and the N3FB/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and it's members to use their repeaters for club purposes.

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test February 24th

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Sunday, February 24th, 2019, 10:00 AM**, at **WASHFest 2019**, South Park Home Economics Building, 3735 Buffalo Drive, South Park, PA 15129. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

**Pre-registration is not required.
Walk-ins welcome!**

But if you plan on attending test session, please contact VE Team Liason Ron

6723 or [org](http://www.washradio.org)

Please
Picture ID or
(required)

Remaining test dates in 2019 to be scheduled

the
Notarius
W3WN:
Telephone (412) 572-
E-Mail: w3wn@n3sh.net

bring the following to your test session:
other suitable identification (2 forms of ID

Tony's Musings

WASHFest 2019 was a a smashing success!

Thank you Carol for Planning and implementation! Thank you to all members who helped out in any way from initial setup on Saturday to tear down on Sunday. The members of WASH have proven that they are a truly above and beyond Team, so cohesive that not even 60 MPH winds can tear apart!

Again, Job well done!

Thank you!!



— 73, Tony Romano KB3BYA
President, Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.
N3SH / WA3SH / NP2SH/b

The WRTC 2018 Group have released their official film of the event, held last year in Wittenberg, Germany.

The 54 minute long video covers the history of the event, the preparation including the test days, behind the scenes coverage, as well as the opening and closing ceremonies — and the event itself.

The video can be found on the WRTC2018 channel on VIMEO, and can be accessed directly from tinyurl.com/WRTC2018-film

— Ed Durrant DD5LP

It was a very nice February morning, when the **WASH Breakfast Gang** got together, this month at the South Park **Eat 'N Park**, 5220 Library Road, South Park Township, prior to heading to the Home Economics Building to start getting setup for **WASHFest 2019**. This month's turnout included K3HCR, N3RDG, W3WH, KB3BGMU, N3SBF, KB3BYA & Amy, K3VX, WB4GCS, KB3YCX, WA3VSS & W3WN. Coffee and conversation revolved around confirming T31EU on 160 meters, setting up for the hamfest... again... VE credentials found!, "feel my phone!", K4KYU& a 30 minute ragchew on 160 meter AM with a converted Gates AM Broadcast transmitter, hex beams, the waitress' at Eat N Park, Rohn 25 on a house bracket — why is that tower also guyed?, Georgia Ice Cream, center loading a vertical antenna, solar panels are finally ON (and no QRM from the inverters), direct flights on Allegeant, TSA prechecks, "Lock N Load", the Jack Ryan novels, history of Islam, dacron rope for dipoles, paperwork for the Government... and a ton more.

Our next gathering of the Gang will be on Saturday, March 30th, returning to the **Eat 'N Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19) in McMurray (the "new" restaurant that was recently built), officially starting at **8:00 AM**. While we don't need a "head count" to reserve tables as we've previously done, **please** let Jim WB4GCS know ahead of time if you are planning on coming... if you don't, though and decide at the last minute, we'll have plenty of room for you! See you there?

Members of **WASH**,

"I would very much like to say a BIG THANK YOU to all those who helped with all the work that had to be done. There are so many of you who helped on Saturday with the table set up. And again on Sunday with any chore that I asked them to do. Also to those members who attended as visitors.

Again Rick and Jan did a great job in the kitchen with Norma as there helper. I understand that Tony also lent a hand. And a big "thank you" to Chuck for spending the night and for the speakers.

The **WASH** club is always there for you no matter what. And of course a special thanks goes to my other half.

This Hamfest and all our group functions are done by the best hams I know. I would never be able to do this by my self. I will give a great report at the meeting.

And don't forget meeting night is Pizza night. See you there!"



— Carol Danko KB3GMN, **WASHFest** Chair

More "wrap up" on **WASHFest 2019** will take place at the meeting. Preliminary information is that we done real good again, but we shall leave the specifics to Carol and Mark!

Our own thanks as well to everyone who took and submitted photos, and to all of the VE's who helped or offered to help during the testing session during the hamfest!

VE Testing for the rest of 2019 has not been scheduled yet, as Ron W3WN has run into a scheduling conflict on Thursday evenings for the immediate future. We may need someone to take over as the VEC Liason at least temporarily. More details at the meeting on Thursday.

So what's on tap for the rest of the year? 2 Rivers ARC, Hamvention, and the Breezeshooter Hamfests are coming up in the next few months, with more on tap later in the year; as well as Field Day, Pa QSO, and a whole bunch of contests and operating events. And as you may have already heard (and will read about inside these pages), planning for the KDKA Centennial and possible Special Event Stations next year are already underway, in typical WPA fashion.

We'll do our best to keep you informed as to what's going on in the club and in the area!

Join WASH or Renew your Membership Today! Membership Application on Page 23

Minutes, February 7th Meeting

Dan Campbell K3CMU, Vice President/Secretary, WASH

Call to Order: 19:03 hours; Presiding Officer: Tony Romano (KB3BYA)

Pledge of Allegiance Moment of Silence (REMEMBERING Silent Keys & Others)

Number of Members Present: 18; Numbers of Guests: 1;

Guest(s) Name(s): Michael Serowik (N3BSQ)

Introductions:

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Treasurer: Mark Stabryla, (N3RDV) Read and accepted. Motion to Accept by Frank (N3FB), second by Carol (KB3GMN) and passed.

Secretary: Dan Campbell (K3CMU):

+ Motion to Waive Reading of the Minutes: Carol (KB3GMN)

+ Seconded by: Bob (N3RDG)

+ Passed: YES Unanimously

+ Correspondence: None

Volunteer Examiners: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Absent, no report

Repeaters: Frank Bobro (N3FB), Repeating! Issues?: No

WASHNet: Charles Bihun, III (K3CELA): Absent; Lots of activity.

Contests: Larry Comden (K3VX):

+ DXCC: report scores as assisted

+ Field Day 2019: Last full weekend in June; We received approval for overnight occupancy; Allegheny County requested names of people staying overnight; we need to add Allegheny county as an Additional Insured for the event;

+ Regarding 2 meter event: consensus to keep and improve.

Public Service: Tony Romano (KB3BYA):

+ New ARES connection?

+ Skywarn at Steel City ARC: Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 8:00 PM; 208 McMichael Rd, Carnegie, PA 15106; <http://w3kwh.com/>

WASHFest 2019: Carol Danko (KB3GMN):

+ Expecting 50 tables, 46 tables reserved, 2 tables are open; all prizes & tickets are received; menu was discussed; volunteer request will be sent out soon.

Membership Contributions: Carol Danko (KB3GMN): Gratefully being accepted.

Newsletter: Ron Notarius (W3WN): Published! (Thank you contributors.)

President's Report:

Old Business:

+ Generators: Jim Sanford (WB4GCS) See report in February 2019 WASHRAG. Results were poor, considering sending Honda test results, they may respond with their own test results.

New Business:

+ Bylaws change (officers would not pay dues during term of office) letter read 2nd time.

+ Motion to pay Insurance bill: \$100 _____; Seconded: _____; Passed

Good of the Order:

+ Linking repeaters? Jim Sanford asked for clarification of the problem we are trying to solve. There may be linking difficulties. If linked it might reduce accessibility. Would benefit users in the North Hills with little benefit for WASH members. Further discussion next meeting.

+ Radio Mobile program: <http://www.ve2dbe.com/english1.html> used to predict the performance of a radio system.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Carol (KB3GMN))

Seconded by: _____; Passed

Meeting Adjourned: 19:58 hours



WASH Spotlight: KW Award



WASH President Tony KB3BYA presenting outgoing WASH Webmaster Sean N3NWR with the 2018 WASH Kilowatt Award in recognition of his hard work and years of service in maintaining the high quality of the N3SH.org website.

The presentation was made during WASHFest 2019.

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Chuck Bihun KC3ELA

Every month we're going to feature a WASH club member, something about them, something they're involved in or a club-related activity that we're involved in, in the WASH Spotlight. Submissions for the Spotlight should be sent to Ron W3WN at [newsletter at n3sh dot org](mailto:newsletter@n3sh.org)

Monthly WASH Breakfast



Please join us for the next WASH Breakfast! We usually get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, drink lots of coffee, and just have a good time!

Join us this month at **Eat'n Park**, 3380 Washington Road (US 19), McMurray. Start time is about 8 AM until ????. Monitor 146.955 & 443.659 for talk-in or any last minute changes.

All are welcome, WASH members or not, amateurs or not!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

2019	N3KFD	KB3ORO	WASH FL	WASH TN	Silent Keys
K3CMU	N3RDG	KB3SQZ	KA3UPY/M	K3OL	
K3GW	N3SBF	KB3YCX	W4ZE	KE3XB	AB3KA
K3HCR	N3ZK	KC3GMM	WASH NE	N3YPB	K3EED
K6DWR	W3WH	KC3KMY	N0PEU	WASH TX	K3LIE
KA3VXM	WA3PYU	N0VLR	WASH OR	NB3C	KA3NMG
KA3CMT	WA3VSS	N1NCZ	KB3NVL	K3LGM	KB3ENX
KB3DCO	WB4GCS	N2QIV	KB3NVM	KB3IJX	KB3FNM
KB3GMN		N3BPB	WASH OH	Jane Wagner	KB3FQT
KB3GMU	AA3GM	N3RDV	N8DPW	WASH VI	KB3JHQ
KB3IAC	AA3XY	N7TDX		NP2JF	N3CZZ
KB3IVX	AB3ED	NU3Q			N3FZ
KB3JHR	AB3NM	NY9H			N3HKQ
KC3ELA	AE3DL	W3BBX			N3KEH
KC3GMM	K3JDS	W3WN			N3OBD
KC3MLC	K3SGT	WA3JFL			N3RNX
KC4WTT	K3VX	WB3CAI			N3SKR
KE7FD	K3WJL	WO3Z			N3SRC
N3DFK	KB3BYA	Barbara			N3ZEL
N3FB	KB3ERQ	Udren			N3XFE

If your call should be listed here & isn't, please contact Mark N3RDV

Through March 3rd, 2019
List compiled by
Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

WA3JPP

2019 WASH Upcoming Events Calendar

Club Meetings & Other Significant Events — Subject to Change

March 2 nd -3 rd	ARRL International DX SSB	http://www.arrl.org
March 7 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting & Pizza Night	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
March 30 th — 31 st	CQ WPX Contest SSB	http://www.cqwpix.com
April 4 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
April 7 th	Two Rivers ARC 2019 Hamfest	The Boston Spectrum , 6001 Smithfield Street, Boston, PA
May 2 nd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
May 5 th	The Pittsburgh Marathon	https://thepittsburghmarathon.com
May 17 th — 19 th	DARA Hamvention	Greene County Fairgrounds & Expo Center, Xenia, OH
May 25 th — 26 th	CQ WPX Contest CW	http://www.cqwpix.com
June 1 st — 2 nd	Breezeshooter's Hamfest	http://www.breezeshooters.org
June 6 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
June 8 th — 10 th	ARRL June VHF Contest	http://www.arrl.org
June 15 th	ARRL Kid's Day	http://www.arrl.org
June 22 nd — 23 rd	ARRL Field Day	http://www.arrl.org
July 4 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting (may be rescheduled)	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
July 20 th — 21 st	PVGP Schenley Park	https://www.pvqp.org
August 1 st	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
September 5 th	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 3 rd	<i>WASH</i> Meeting	St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center, 2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park
October 12 th —13 th	63 rd Pennsylvania QSO Party	https://www.paqso.org

"Seen" at the February Meeting

Photos Courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR



KB3GMN, N3SBF (back)



WB4GCS, WA3PYU, KA3VXM



KB3JHR



KB3GMU, N3FB



WA3PYU, KA3VXM



KB3BYA & The
Kilowatt Award in it's
new case



N3BSQ



WA3VSS

K3VX



N3RDV



N3RDG



There are no words...



The Novice, 1951 and Onwards

Installment 1 of A Ham's Life

Larry Comden K3VX

I've been licensed continuously for 68 years. Here's how it starts.

OK, it's 1951 and I'm a sophomore in high school. The FCC has just announced a major change in amateur radio licensing- the introduction of a "learner" class called Novice. The original Novice license was one year non-renewable with very limited privileges. A gang of six friends decided we would be ready to take the test when it became available on July 1st, 1951.

The test was given in an FCC office in lower Manhattan, by an examiner. The test consisted of receiving and sending Morse Code at 5 words per minute and a 20 question written exam about regulations and elementary technical stuff. We studied hard, using a piano to send Morse – no one had a true code practice oscillator. Some time that July, three or four of us took the train to New York and the subway to Cortland (maybe it was Houston) Street. One of us had \$200 safety pinned to his pants pocket – the big city might be dangerous for teens. If he passed, he was to buy a good receiver from Harrison Radio. He did - and lugged a large, heavy box back home via the train. We also bought WW2 surplus electronics on Radio Row – a multi-block area with lots of ham and audio equipment.

In fact, all six eventually passed that summer. It was really nerve-racking to appear before an FCC examiner in a room with open windows (no air conditioning), tug boat whistles on the Hudson River a few blocks away competing with the Morse tones. The school type desks had seen lots of wear and the code copying pencil kept falling into divots.

The wheels of the FCC ground very slowly – it was weeks before your "ticket" (license) came and surprised you with a precious call sign. Mine was WN1TWX. Two others were nearly consecutive,

WN1TWZ and WN1TXA. Later test-taking friends were farther down the alphabet.

So what were the limited privileges? Crystal controlled CW on one sub-band of 80 meters: 3.700 to 3.750 MC. Maximum power input was 75 watts. Note two changes which came later: We now use MegaHertz instead of MegaCycles and now measure output from final amplifier not input to it.

My first receiver was a Hallicrafters S38B – unstable even after the 5 tubes warmed up, no selectivity, mechanically touchy. A one tube (6AG7) crystal oscillator was inductively coupled to the antenna thru a tuned circuit and link coil. The chassis was a cigar box which meant the 350VDC plate voltage was just waiting to surprise the unwary. I transmitted on the crystal frequency and tuned the entire Novice Band for a reply. There was also a hefty voltage across the key contacts. The first contact was from one side of Long Island Sound to the other – DX of 10 miles. My CQ was answered by a General Class operator. I was so nervous. Could I really do this? He was patient. The antenna switch was a DPDT knife switch which changed the twin lead from the transmitter to receiver and back. Contacts were very SLOW.

Inadvertent DX – A citation from the FCC monitoring station Grand Island, Nebraska for a 2nd harmonic on 7.450 MHz. Oops.

In the first few months the Novice Band became very crowded and several of us resolved to upgrade to General Class. That exam required 13 WPM and several written test elements which covered regulations, various calculations and drawing circuit diagrams. You only need to look at an old License Manual to know it wasn't easy. Studying together helped a lot. Most of the six upgraded, so now we could run much more power (1 KW input), weren't confined to the Novice Band, had AM and CW, VFO instead of crystals and, best of all, the "N" was gone. I was W1TWX.

My parents encouraged this healthy and interesting hobby. There were lots of magazine articles about conversion of the ARC5 WW2 series for single band ham use. We all passed thru the stage of using ARC5 transmitters as VFO controlled 75 Watt transmitters. HeathKit, KnightKit and EICO rigs were in there. One of the gang had a Collins 75A2 receiver. Much later, my radio shack had an HQ129X receiver, a Meissner VFO and Globe Champ 150 Watt transmitter. I've forgotten the details, but there were several wire antennas. The Globe Champ had plug-in coils for the final amplifier – 750 VDC was waiting for a careless teen. There was no interlock on the transmitter to shut down the power supply when the door was opened. I tried to draw an RF arc from the coil –violating all rules of safety, I didn't have one hand in a pocket and I was wearing headphones. A lucky escape. I saw lots of stars. Lesson learned.

I didn't much like AM phone – and spent a lot of hours on the Connecticut CW Traffic Net. We did talk on 10M AM, but the second harmonic of the unfiltered output obliterated Channel 2 all over the neighborhood. We were very unpopular. The local radio club had a member, W1DBM, who was known as Mr TVI. He wrote and lectured that transmitters need shielding and a Low Pass Filter between the rig and antenna. Otherwise, neighbors threatened harm. Shielding and filtering are so standard today; it's hard to imagine that old situation.



Tippi W1WXR and Larry W1TWX in the shack of Bob W1TWZ (circa 1953)

In Feb 1952 I was "asked" to help provide lighting for a stage play – I supposedly knew something about electricity. The sound crew for the play included a very attractive senior girl. After a few coffee dates, she asked about ham radio. I told her (male chauvinist) girls can't pass the test. Wrong! Dates turned into study sessions some of the time. Another trip to New York, FCC examiner and she passed the novice exam –WN1WXR. I still thought, stupidly, the 13 words per minute and theory was a barrier. Wrong again and W1WXR was on AM phone having a great time. Part of her motivation was that ham radio was mostly male, probably intelligent and either employed, or would be after college. To shorten a long story, Tippi and I were married five years later.

My CW contesting experience started in 1952, when W1TWZ and I operated ARRL November Sweepstakes. At that time SS was a two weekend contest totaling 48 hours. Paper logs and dupe sheets really required two operators. Both of us heard CW ringing in our ears all thru Monday high school classes. One problem was poor filtering in the receiver. Inexperience was the other.

Sometimes life gets in the way of hobbies like ham radio. College, US Army, a child, Graduate School limited activities, but not our interest. Both of us retained our licenses – didn't want to go thru the test experience again.

The next chapter of the story resumes in 1964.

Photo courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Larry Comden K3VX

A Month Without Sunspots

London, England, UK, March 2nd, 2019 – The sun has just passed an entire calendar month with no sunspots.

The last time this happened, in August 2008, the sun was in the nadir of a century-class Solar Minimum.

The current stretch of blank suns shows that Solar Minimum has returned, and it could be as deep as the last one.

Visit Spaceweather.com for more information and current sunspot counts.

– Southgate Amateur Radio News



WPA Section News

Joe Shupienis W3BC, ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section Manager



Falls Creek, PA, February 19th, 2019 — **2019 WPA Section Cabinet Meeting**

Our Western Pennsylvania Section Cabinet met on Saturday, February 2nd at Kings Restaurant in Kittanning. Ten Section Staff Members were present, and each one gave a report on their activities and plans.

Additionally several Staff Members had prepared briefings on new technologies and programs, which they presented to the group.

A comprehensive agenda was presented to the group, and the following actions were taken by the group:

- * WPA ARES Simplex Frequency re-alignment plan was discussed and approved.
- * A suggestion by the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council that the WPA Section petition for a 70 cm Repeater pair to be designated as "Shared, Non-Protected" (SNP) for use by WPA ARES section-wide by temporary repeaters during disasters, training exercises and public service events in need of repeaters was discussed and approved.
- * Following a presentation on DMR digital voice radio, the use of DMR in our WPA section was enthusiastically discussed. A Section position of encouraging the static linking and greater use of the "Western Pennsylvania" DMR Talk Group 31422 by WPA DMR Repeater and hotspot users, and the institution of a regular DMR net was approved.
- * Official encouragement for WPA ARES members to report their service hours for Public Service Honor Roll (PSHR) credit to our WPA Traffic Manager, and promoting further integration with ARES Connect was discussed and approved.
- * Enhanced support and encouragement for County ECs who are building or rebuilding ARES teams under the new Enhanced ARES program was discussed and approved.
- * Renaming WPA Districts with "Plain Language" names: North-1 becomes "Northwest", South-2 becomes "Southeast", etc. was discussed and approved.
- * Formation of a "special needs" VE team, trained in providing appropriate accommodations to prospective radio amateurs of all ability levels was discussed and approved.
- * Travel reimbursement policies for 2019 and need for Section Approval before incurring expenses was explained to the group by the Section Manager.
- * Discussion of a possible change in our WPA Section Convention venue was Deferred, since the 2019 WPA Section Convention was already approved by ARRL.
- * Support for only one single group that will be responsible for planning an officially sanctioned Special Event station and activities for the KDKA 100th Anniversary in November 2020 was discussed and approved.
- * More Official Observer assistance in several FCC investigations of very serious Amateur Radio violations in WPA was discussed and approved that the OOC instruct Official Observers to allocate priority for these issues.
- * The establishment of a "Speaker's Bureau", listing amateurs willing to travel to put on interesting and competent presentations at Affiliated Club meetings was discussed and approved.

The Cabinet Members approved that remaining Staff vacancies to be filled, and requests be made for qualified volunteers; that the Section Manager should require regular reporting from all Section Staff, and to require the Section's prior approval and coordination of official WPA Events and activities.

Reports were presented on Youth Program, Collegiate Initiative, Official Observer Program, National Traffic System Activities, ARES initiatives, Served Agency outreach, Frequency Coordination with WPRC, District ARES activities.

Guidelines for conflict-of-interest situations were discussed.

Demonstrations of DMR technology, and the design and operation of Software Defined Radios, with examples of each were presented.

It was quite a meeting, and an impressive amount of important business was conducted... AND concluded! We can all be proud of — and thankful for — the excellent service our Section staff provides to all 11,000 radio amateurs and 4.3 million Pennsylvanians in our Western Pennsylvania Section

In attendance: Jack Buzon KA3HPM, Official Observer Coordinator
 Bruce Gibson K3BEG, Section Youth Coordinator
 Chuck Kanarr AB3XZ, Northwest District Emergency Coordinator
 Bud Plants N3TIR, Section Emergency Coordinator
 Kevin Snyder KA3YCB, Northeast District Emergency Coordinator

Steve Fazekas K3FAZ, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator
 Herb Gilliland W3YNX, Traffic Manager
 Juan Manfredi NA0B, Assistant Section Manager for Collegiate Initiative
 Joe Shupienis W3BC, Section Manager
 David Wellman WX3E, Asst. Section Manager for Emergency Preparedness

New WPA ARES Simplex Frequency Plan Approved!

At the February 9th WPA Cabinet Meeting, the proposed WPA ARES Simplex Frequency Plan was unanimously approved. This new suggested frequency plan improves our use of scarce frequencies, and greatly enhances ARESMAT (mutual aid) operations, by ensuring that every radio has every frequency pre-programmed into it for the entire section!

Four simplex frequencies were chosen to meet the following criteria:

- * specified as Simplex Channels in the WPRC 2-meter Band Plan\
- * at least 30 kHz separation from each other
- * at least 30 kHz separation from any repeater input or output frequency (as specified in the WPRC Band Plan)
- * at least 30 kHz separation from the 146.52 MHz National Calling Frequency

Additionally, they were chosen to align on 30 kHz-spaced channels to facilitate their availability on older radios, including ancient crystal-controlled radios and 1970s-vintage synthesized rigs. The result provides maximum compatibility with 90% or more of all radios that might be pressed into service.

Here are the counties and recommended frequencies:

- * 146.55 "TAC-5" Allegheny, Clarion, Clearfield, Greene, Huntingdon, Mercer, Potter, Somerset, Warren
- * 146.58 "TAC-8" Beaver, Blair, Clinton, Franklin, Jefferson, McKean, Venango, Westmoreland
- * 147.54 "TAC-4" Armstrong, Cambria, Cameron, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Fulton, Lawrence, Mifflin
- * 147.57 "TAC-7" Bedford, Butler, Centre, Crawford, Elk, Indiana, Washington



WPA Section News

continued from Page 8

ARESMAT (mutual aid) operations will be greatly simplified by programming all four of these frequencies into every radio used by ARES members. This plan enables every radio to be used in every county in the WPA Section without the need for any re-programming in the field.

This Plan was shared with all DEC's and EC's for comments in late October 2018. It was also shared with the Western Pennsylvania Repeater Council for comments and suggestions. We gratefully acknowledge their suggestions, which bring it into conformance with the ARRL and WPRC bandplans, and the current operating practice on 2 meters throughout our entire Section.

Additionally, three extra frequencies were selected for use as extra or alternate frequencies in each district as follows:

- * 145.51 "ALT-1" Northeast District (N2)
- * 145.53 "ALT-3" Southwest District (S1)
- * 145.59 "ALT-9" Northwest District (N1) and Southeast District (S2)

Including both 2-meter and 70 cm calling frequencies gives us 9 channels, with the channel number being the last digit of the frequency:

Channel #	Channel Name	Frequency
1)	ALT-1	145.51 MHz
2)	CALL-2	146.52 MHz
3)	ALT-3	145.53 MHz
4)	TAC-4	147.54 MHz
5)	TAC-5	146.55 MHz
6)	CALL-446	446 MHz
7)	TAC-7	147.57 MHz
8)	TAC-8	146.58 MHz
9)	ALT-9	145.59 MHz

(Hint: This would make a good "Zone" to include in your codeplugs.
I call the zone "WPA ARES FM" in my codeplugs.)

Digital Mobile Radio Making Progress in WPA

When the FCC moved to make DMR legal for Amateur Radio use in 2014, it stimulated a lot of interest in the commercial radio mode (also known as "MOTO TRBO" by Motorola). As an open standard, DMR is picking up momentum as new models of radios by new manufacturers are starting to flood the market. Many of the big names are FCC type accepted for Part 90 (Business band) and Part 95 (CB, including GMRS and MURS), but before buying that super-bargain priced radio, make sure it is legal to be purchased in the US.

As of this writing, there are 75 amateur repeaters in Pennsylvania that support DMR. Only 19 of them are on the air in our WPA Section, though.

For well under \$100, you can buy the parts to assemble a DMR "Hotspot" (or purchase a ready-made one) which uses your Internet connection to link your radio to the global DMR Networks.

If you and a buddy both have DMR radios, you can also use TalkGroup 99 on 145.79, 441.00; also on 145.61, 145.63, and 145.65 MHz. Please do not use DMR on 145.51, even though the Internet says you "should." In our WPA Section, our Repeater Council Band Plan has 145.51-.59 assigned as FM Simplex frequencies, and our WPA ARES Plan is in total alignment and agreement with the WPRC existing bandplan!

Due to the low price of the equipment, it is relatively easy and inexpensive to add DMR capability to almost any existing amateur radio repeater. Due to the currently small (but growing) number of DMR repeaters in WPA, activity is not as intense as it is elsewhere, like Eastern PA, Ohio... and pretty much the whole eastern seaboard!

But, we do have a "Western PA" talkgroup number: 31422. There has been some talk of a regularly scheduled net, which sounds like a great idea! One suggestion is at 7:30 on Wednesday evenings, but let's not carve that in stone, just yet!

Meanwhile, if you have a DMR radio, please make sure you have 31422 in a place of honor in each of your codeplugs and as a "Static Group" in your Hotspot, and please make a habit of using it on a regular basis.

Our WPA Section is encouraging all DMR Repeater owners in our Section to consider "nailing it up" as a Static Group on your DMR Repeaters, thus making it very easy to carry on relevant QSOs with our neighbors in our Section!

I monitor 31422 as much as I can, and I hope to QSO with you there very soon.

That's all for now.

73 and Press On!

ARRL Presence at WASHFest 2019, photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



KDKA Centennial Special Event Planning

Joe Shupienis W3BC, Western Pennsylvania Section Manager

Falls Creek, PA, February 20th, 2019 -- You may already be aware that Pittsburgh's own KDKA-AM will celebrate 100 years of broadcasting on November 2nd, 2020. I've been contacted by a number of clubs and groups with interest in setting up a special event for amateur radio in connection with the KDKA event.

While I realize that this is Western Pennsylvania, where we all like to do our own thing, I believe the opportunity for a world-class event such as this requires more than a bunch of one club operations to be a success.

Here's my favorite definition of Teamwork: Division of labor with unity of purpose.

It works for our beloved Black and Gold teams, and it will work for us!

Therefore, I am encouraging every club in the WPA Southwest District (South-2) to come together to make this a **very** special event! There is a lot of preparation necessary in order to have to have a successful on-the-air event, and it simply won't happen if we don't all work together. Having 5 or 10 different KDKA special event operations will be confusing and discouraging to the amateur radio community at best. For guidance, I recommend looking at how the annual 13 Colonies special event is set up. There's plenty of activity and glory for everybody who puts a station on the air, but they all cooperate with one another to make that event possible.

What I am suggesting is that an ad hoc committee (made up of representatives from every club that is interested) be formed, choose their own leadership from among their numbers, and then work together to plan a successful event. Each club can have HF operators using the Special Event callsign(s), and if there are to be certificates to be awarded, the work and expense can be shared by all clubs equally. When you think about it, it really starts to make more sense than 20 separate, small-scale efforts.

The role ARRL WPA can play in this is very limited, and can only consist of publicity, guidance and encouragement to do it the right way. We can help you recruit operators, and get the event published in QST. We can help get the media and press involved. In other words, we can *provide support* for the event, but your intra-club committee must provide the organization and team members!

If you would like to provide names to represent your club or group -- or even volunteer yourself, please send that info to kdka100@wpa-arrl.org and we will share it with the entire group.

Thank you for your leadership, cooperation and team spirit!

73 and Press On!

ARES EC Monthly Reports To Continue on PDF Forms

American Radio Relay League courtesy of Bud Plants N3TIR, ARRL WPA SEC

Newington, CT, February 19th, 2019 -- ECs and DECAs should continue to report as usual. We will transition over to reporting through ARES Connect later during 2019.

Here are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) we have received:

Q – Do you need to be an ARRL member to sign up for ARES Connect?

A – No, participation in ARES, and ARES Connect, does not require ARRL membership.

Q – Are ARES Connect registrations replacing FSD 98 applications?

A – Yes, the current form FSD 98 will be phased out in 2019. ARES Connect allows admins to generate reports, in the form of spreadsheets, to compile reports as they see fit and in real time.

Q – It would make sense for each ARES member to complete their own profile and update it as changes warrant. Is this correct or is this something I as EC must do?

A – Users can edit their profile at any time. Individual volunteers should create and manage their own ARES Connect accounts. An EC should only create and manage an account for volunteers who make it clear they do not want to.

Q – As EC, why don't I have permission to edit my county ARES members.

A – At this time permission to edit users is given to section level admins and above. If you need to make a change to a user account, contact your SEC or SM. We will be reviewing this policy which has implications of a security nature and determine how we might return the ability for ECs to edit users.

Important links to remember: Make sure you are using the correct link when creating an account and inform your ECs. Using the wrong link to create an account means the user will not be seen by admins in their section. You can access the WPA Section's landing page by going to one of these links:

<https://vhub.at/aresconnect-wpa> or <https://arrl.volunteerhub.com/lp/wpa>

When creating an event, make sure you place the event under the appropriate category heading: Communications Emergency, Community Event, SKYWARN, Exercise, Training, Meeting, or Net. If you have questions, please refer to the online instructions at <http://bit.ly/200Xw2s>

User names – All users should use their Amateur Radio call signs as their user name.



An Inexpensive & Effective 20 Meter Vertical

Greg Danes KJ4DGE

Alexandria, VA, February 16th, 2019 – The reason for this venture was lack of space and stealth to a degree. Also, I wanted something I could put up in a place clear from trees and the house. I am fortunate to have a semi-next-door neighbor with a stand of bamboo on their property. They are more than happy for me to cull it from time to time. The tallest pieces that are healthy are around 20 feet in height. This was the non-conductive “mast” I decided to use, and it blends in more than a metal or plastic pole.

I could have used a simple length of wire at 16.5 feet for the radiator but instead chose a bought mono-band dipole that I had no success with tuning or mounting in this small yard. The dipole now cut gave me 2 16.5 foot sections the first of which I secured to the 20-foot bamboo pole. See pics. Next, I needed at least 100 feet of coax to run from the window of the house along the ground and to the base. Then I started to experiment with it.

I found even with an air-wound balun for a current choke I was losing a lot of power in this setup and had excessive SWR across the bands. So down it came and remembering the articles I had read on this and having built a current balun that worked well in the past for 40 meters I built a new one on a liter bottle of Coke using 6 neat turns of the feed line. This worked to get me about 75 watts out but the SWR remained the same with only a small portion of the 20-meter band around 14.260 being 2.1 as measured by the FT-990.

Knowing that any ground plane does better with more radial and with the right angle, I cut 3 measured 16.5 foot wires to add to the bottom of the current choke side of this mess running at 45 degree angles that allowed me to still walk around the house without having to duck under them :-)

I also tied these radials off so that would act as natural guy wires with a purpose so to speak.

See Photo 1 (right), and yes, that is an iron railing next to the steps that lead down to the basement. Along with the 20-foot bamboo mast, I have a 5-foot metal bar as a brace to the bamboo and lashed to this, giving be an addition 25 foot height overall.

After several trips to the rig to check SWR, I found that now I was getting 1:5:1 and 100 watts power out across the entire 20-meter band! I did have to trim the white wire a bit in the picture as it was a guess and a mess when I measured it, but the results were more than I had wished for. No doubt the one radial couples with the railing a bit and gives a broader ground pattern but the angle I feel is the real reason for the SWR being lower.

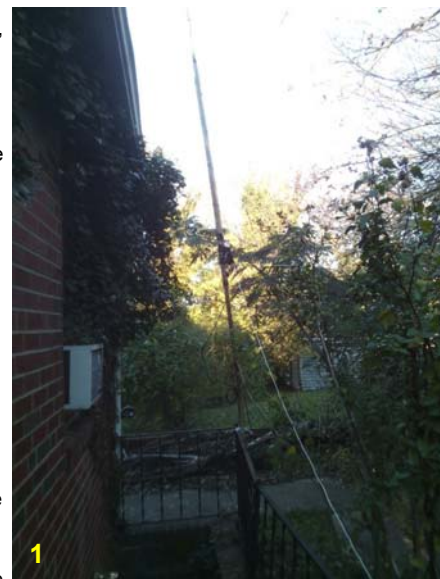
All in all, about 2 hours of building and testing. And the results? Even with VERY bad conditions I checked into the SATERN net on 14.265 with an S7, was heard by a group of 7's and 6's in California and worked one with a S9. This was my first attempt at a vertical for 20 meters and the results are better than I wished for.

Bamboo can be used for a lot of things. Martial artists use bamboo for staffs, kendo and other training weapons as its tough enough but won't crack your skull too badly; weird, huh?

From an antenna perspective it also is light enough to hold a wire but loose enough to sway in the breeze during a bad storm. Most rigid masts just come crashing down.

Experimentation is what it's all about as hams. We have a leg up on fiddling with things until they work. You never know until you try.

Before you ask, No, the broken weed-whacker in the trash can is not part of the antenna...wait I could use the nylon spool from it for something! Now if anyone knows of a sure-fire way to kill climbing ivy...feel free to contact me. :-)



New CEO's Goal: Refocusing, Reshaping ARRL

American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 7th, 2019 -- A plan by ARRL CEO Howard Michel WB2ITX, to reshape and reorganize the management structure at ARRL Headquarters will go into effect on Monday, February 11th. The ARRL Board of Directors endorsed the plan during its Annual Meeting on January 18th – 19th in Windsor, Connecticut.



"I see ARRL as a membership association, a business, and a 501(c)(3) public charity. As CEO, I intend to strengthen all three aspects. And all three must remain in balance for ARRL to function effectively," Michel said.

"As a business, ARRL is not just QST magazine, *The Handbook*, DXCC or the VEC program. We can't allow ourselves to continue to think within those traditional parameters." He continued, "ARRL's businesses are not membership, publishing, and advertising. ARRL's businesses are value creation, value delivery, and advocacy. I plan to architect ARRL along those lines. To quote Steve Jobs, 'More important than building a product, we are in the process of architecting a company that will hopefully be much more incredible, the total will be much more incredible than the sum of its parts.'" Michel said.

The reorganization has three key components. The first major change is the creation of a management council (MC). The MC will be a deliberative and generative body to discuss ideas, operations, and long-term planning for ARRL. The

Continued on Page 13

Radio Tower Request Pits Kettering Man Against His Neighbors

Wayne Baker, Staff Writer, Dayton Daily News

Kettering, OH, February 27th, 2019 – A Kettering man who wants to build a 50-foot radio tower in his backyard will have to wait to learn the fate of his appeal regarding a city ruling.

Wynn Rollert W6CDR, 77, had requested approval to be granted a variance on his property in the 4800 block of Mad River Road in order to install the tower. The Board of Zoning Appeals previously denied his request.

City Council conducted a public hearing on Tuesday regarding his appeal of the denial. Council delayed a ruling on the appeal, but the hearing focused on what the laws are regarding the request and the feelings of those in the neighborhood who are not in favor of the tower being built.

Kettering's Zoning Code allows for amateur radio towers to be 25 feet without a variance, so that is why Rollert wants approval for the extra 25 feet.

In December, the Board of Zoning Appeal voted 3-1 to deny the request without comment. The decision went against a report from Zoning Administrator Run Hundt, who indicated that the request should be approved.

He reiterated the facts of the case Monday in front of council. "We had a public hearing on November 12th, 2018, and at that hearing there was testimony by the applicant and by neighbors," Hundt said. "And a petition submitted by neighbors opposing the request. At that time there was some concern about what the appearance of what this tower would be."

Several pictures were eventually submitted of what some towers looked like in the Dayton area, and neighbors added testimony at a subsequent hearing voicing opposition to the variance being approved. "I will say that the staff report for this project was supportive of the 25-foot variance," Hundt said. "We did so based on our understanding of what the law is and the standards for variances. However, the board is the body that decides this case, and they had a very thorough motion for disapproval for this request."

Rollert testified Tuesday night and was represented by attorney Barry Mancz at the hearing.

Mancz told council that the evidence substantiates that the city's zoning code along with FCC and State of Ohio regulations state that the reasonable accommodation Rollert is seeking is lawful and the Board of Zoning Appeal erred in its ruling. "They made a mistake," he said, noting Hundt's report which stated, "We cannot prohibit based on standards of people putting up a tower."

Rollert has been a HAM operator and amateur radio enthusiast since 1952. He said he would like to use commercial-grade equipment, including the UHF/VHF frequency tower, for two-to-three hours a day to communicate with other HAM operators at remote sites, especially during emergency situations.

Several residents spoke out Tuesday voicing concerns about how the tower would look in their Mad River Road neighborhood because it is a historic street with well-manicured lawns and a tree-lined landscape.

Mancz asked Sue Choate about her comments to the zoning appeals board in which she praised HAM operators and noted working with them 18 years when she was with the Red Cross. She said that she did feel that way, but still vehemently opposed the tower. "My husband and I moved into the neighborhood to make a house into a home and that is what we've done," she said. "We feel this would be an eyesore and would lower property values."

Vice-Mayor Bill Lauter said that council would not rule on the appeal Tuesday, but would make a determination at a later date.

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WWØWWV: WWV Centennial Special Event

American Radio Relay League

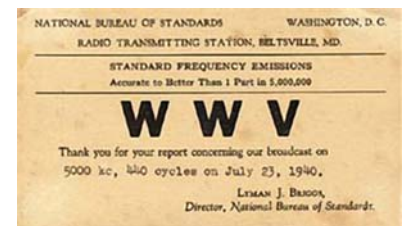
Newington, CT, March 1st, 2019 — With its funding secure for another year, WWV, the world's oldest continuously operating radio station, will have extra reason to celebrate its centennial this fall. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Northern Colorado Amateur Radio Club (NCARC) have teamed up to organize 100th anniversary events. A memorandum of understanding is pending. The [WWV Committee](#) has announced that the call sign [WWØWWV](#) was granted on February 23rd to the WWV Amateur Radio Club for use during the Amateur Radio special event, planned to run September 28th – October 2nd, with operators on the air — no pun intended — around the clock. NCARC predicts the effort will require "hundreds" of volunteer operators.

"The 100th anniversary is an occasion to celebrate radio and our understanding of the electromagnetic spectrum, and an opportunity to help people everywhere appreciate what radio does in their everyday lives," said Dave Swartz, WØDAS, who has been spearheading the on-the-air event.

The WWV Committee met on February 22nd, with representatives of NCARC and NIST on hand, to further firm up plans for the centennial celebratory events. Although the US government cannot fund any Amateur Radio special event expenses, club members will be allowed to use a 15-acre parcel on WWV property, Swartz has explained. The operating site lies outside the security fence.

For its part, NIST will focus on plans for an October 1st recognition ceremony and an open house at the radio station north of Fort Collins.

"WWV was first established in 1919 by the Bureau of Standards in Washington, D.C., and has been described as the oldest continuously-operating radio station in the United States. In 1931 it relocated to the first of three suburban Maryland sites, before moving to its current location near Fort Collins in 1966." — Wikipedia



WWV Transmitter Building circa 2002



US Navy Explores Amateur Radio as a Training Adjunct

American Radio Relay League, NAWCWD & Public Affairs Officer Kimberly Brown

Newington, CT, February 13th 2019 – The US Navy's Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division (NAWCWD) has adopted Amateur Radio training as a possible new approach to basic RF and electronics instruction. More than 20 NAWCWD employees took part in a week-long class in Point Mugu, California, in December. The class, which culminated in an examination session for the Technician licensed, offered NAWCWD employees a novel approach to teaching radio propagation, said Brian Hill KF4CAM, the lead for electromagnetic maneuver warfare experimentation in the Avionics, Sensors and E*Warfare Department. Hill, who got his license while he was still in high school, is also the department's "innovation ambassador."

"I looked at the breakdown of current new hires and saw that many had degrees in computer science and thought that their classwork might not have covered things like RF propagation," Hill said. Rather than have employees sit through hours of PowerPoint briefings, Hill thought that a licensing course might be a more dynamic, hands-on approach to convey the basics — and cover areas such as directional antennas, signal propagation, and modulation that are necessary for their work.

Initially, Hill had 10 class slots funded, but then Target Design Engineering Branch Head Ian Mann KI6YVO, got wind of the class, saw its potential, and helped get funding to expand participation. Mann, a General-class licensee and a ham for nearly 10 years, said he's been able to apply knowledge learned in the class to his NAWCWD work.

Target Systems Division head Milton Gabaldon, also saw merit in the approach. He sat in on the classes, took the exam, and he's now KM6YPA. For him, it's about connecting the dots.

"It's about introducing people to electronics, to start understanding what RF is all about ...so when we talk about it in the test and evaluation world, [students] know what we're talking about," Gabaldon said. "They get a better view than 'I just do software.' Now they see 'My software controls this piece, which sends out RF jamming signals that protect the warfighter.' That's the most important takeaway."

In all, 23 employees who took the Technician exam passed, and several also successfully tested at for General and Amateur Extra licenses. Hill hopes to offer more hands-on classes in the future, and he's planning a Fox Hunt for the near future, as additional hands-on training.

Photo courtesy of the US Navy NAWCWD and the American Radio Relay League



Some of the 23 NAWCWD staff who successfully passed their Amateur Radio Exams



50th Anniversary AMSAT OSCAR Communications Award Starts March 3rd

AMSAT News Service & Robert Bankston KE4AL



Get those uplinks ready! Much like the regular AMSAT OSCAR Satellite Communications Achievement Award, the 50th Anniversary Limited Edition is unique in that the award certificates will be printed on one of the original goldenrod paper stock certificates and signed by AMSAT's founding President, Perry Klein K3JTE (now W3PK). With only 20 original certificates available, this award will certainly become a collector's item.

The first 20 applicants to successfully submit 20 confirmed, qualifying contacts on any satellite will receive this award. A qualifying contact is defined as the establishment of two-way communication on any amateur radio satellite, with another station in a US state, Canadian call area, or DXCC entity, no two of which may be the same.

- ◆ All contacts must be made between March 03rd, 2019 00:00 UTC and December 31st, 2019 23:59 UTC.
- ◆ A U.S. state shall mean any state of the United States and the District of Columbia.
- ◆ The 14 Canadian call areas are VE1 – Nova Scotia, VE2 – Quebec, VE3 – Ontario, VE4 – Manitoba, VE5 – Saskatchewan, VE6 – Alberta, VE7 – British Columbia, VE8 – Northwest Territories, VE9 – New Brunswick, VO1 – Newfoundland, VO2 – Labrador, VY0 – Nunavut, VY1 – Yukon, VY2 – Prince Edward Island.
- ◆ Only one qualifying contact is allowed for each US state, Canadian call area, and DXCC entity.
- ◆ Qualifying contacts may not be counted for multiple types of entities. As an example, a QSO with Alaska counts as an additional state or DXCC entity, not both.
- ◆ Contacts must be made from same location, or from locations, no two of which are more than 50 miles (80 kilometers) apart.
- ◆ Previous recipients of the AMSAT Satellite Communications Achievement Award may apply for the 50th Anniversary AMSAT Satellite Communications Achievement Award.

The complete rules and instructions for applying for this and all 50th Anniversary Awards can be found at: <https://www.amsat.org/amsat-50th-anniversary-awards-program/>

ARRL CEO

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group's goal is to foster horizontal lines of communication within the organization. Direct horizontal lines of communications are much more efficient than "up, over, and down," Michel offered.

The second key change, Michel said, is the addition of a Product Development Manager. This individual's responsibility will be to create new ideas for products and services, create pilot programs to quickly test those ideas, and then — if the pilot programs are successful — transition them to operations. "The motto in startups is to fail fast," Michel said. "Let's innovate like a startup."

Third, he said, is creating the position of a Marketing Communications Manager. "Our brand works with our traditional members. It is not working for newly licensed hams," Michel said. "If we are to create a demand for the value we bring to Amateur Radio, we need a coordinated and consistent message, across all forms of media that resonates with current and potential members."

In conjunction with its support of this reorganization plan, the ARRL Board of Directors also endorsed a proposal to create a new Lifelong Learning platform that will establish ARRL as an educational leader in Amateur Radio, and the purchase of a modern association management software system that should dramatically improve ARRL members' experiences.

"These are big investments the Board is making in ARRL, and a strong positive vote of confidence that we can deliver," Michel said. "They are giving us the tools to be successful."

WASHFest 2019: Saturday AM Setup

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



Patiently waiting for the Taylor Rental Center truck to bring the rest of our tables!



Truck & Tables Have Arrived! Time to Unload & Setup!



WASHFest 2019

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Gary Weslager K3GW



Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



WASHFest 2019 Main Prize Winners



First Prize: Dennis Wertz W3DCW
 Second Prize: Wayne Valentino KA3TQG
 Third Prize: Roy Bucher K3YVS
 Fourth Prize: Bruce Bailey AB3ZJ
 Fifth Prize: Janet Lopretto
 Sixth Prize: Steve Burkholder KC3EUK
 Black Box 1: Chip Becker KC3LHW
 Black Box 2: Bob Steele N8HGL
 50/50: Ricky McDonald N3ZCH



50/50: Ricky N3ZCH

Our thanks to everyone who came out and supported the club this year, and congratulations to all of the prize winners!

See you in 2020!

Photo credits:

50/50 Winner courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Harold Rosenberger K3HCR.

All other photos on this page courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



First Prize: Dennis W3DCW



Second Prize: Wayne KA3TQG



Pulling the Prize Tickets



Third Prize: Roy K3YVS

VE Exams:

This year, we had four candidates for VEC testing. Three were successful, resulting in two upgrades and one new licensee!

Congratulations to:

- + Jack Glidden K3OZB from Allison PA (upgrade to Amateur Extra Class),
- + Alan Doman KB3HRI from Bentleyville PA (upgrade to General),
- + Jason Ochodski from Washington PA (new General)!

Our thanks to all of the VE's who volunteered or offered their time:

Glen KE7FD, Jim WB4GCS, David K6DWR, Michael N3TDV, John W3FRO, Lee WB3ACC, Bill WA3VSS, Richie N3SBF, and Bill NY9H

73, Ron W3WN, WASH VE Team Coordinator



People of WASHFest

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Ron Notarius W3WN



WASHFest 2019

Photos courtesy of and © Copyright 2019 Robert Bastone WC3O



KDKA Centennial: Personal Notes

Joe Shupienis W3BC

Editor's Note: This is from a follow-up email to the original item on Page 10

Falls Creek, PA, February 28th, 2019 -- I'm taking my ARRL badge off... Now it's just Joe talking to you.

I'm hearing from individuals all over the section, and I don't like what I'm hearing. Everybody is scrambling into action, frantically trying to be the first so they can run the show exclusively for the benefit of their own club only, and who couldn't care less how bad this makes amateur radio look. It's all about fame and glory to them.

I like the committee idea, but by the time Breezeshooters rolls around, 20+ independent clubs will have already made extravagant commitments (likely too big for them to honor) in a completely uncoordinated -- and uncoordinatable -- manner.

I think a multi-club effort with one certificate and several clubs/calls (like the 13-Colonies award) is the way to go. That way, everybody can be "important" and the certificate hunters have more of a challenge than a one-and-done QSO.

But it's probably going to fall on deaf ears because everybody wants to have their own shot at fame and glory.

I'm open to suggestions on how all the interested groups can work together to keep this from becoming a giant cluster If that is even possible.

Personally, it's not my place to organize this, I'm just pointing out how easy it is to ruin it for everybody if there is no cooperation.

Just Joe W3BC, radio amateur (Not speaking as WPA SM)



KDKA Centennial: Rumors & Fake News

Ron Notarius W3WN

Castle Shannon, Pa, March 1st, 2019 -- I've recently been informed that at least one of the potential organizers that Joe was talking about (see above) has been telling people that he was organizing this so quickly in part because I was bragging to people that I wanted to be the One In Charge of the Great ARRL Organized Centennial Special Event Station(s) Committee, or something like that.

For the record... I do not now, nor have I ever, had any interest in organizing this. Even in the unlikely event that I would have had the interest, at the present time I don't have the time available. Were I to be asked, I would decline the opportunity. I'd love to participate in this, but run it? Thanks, but no thanks.

I do not know where or why this rumor started; the people I'm told are the sources of it have never asked me about this, and the most conversation I had with them during the course of **WASHFest** was a single word: "Hello"

I've since learned that there is a group being organized by someone who has experiences in this sort of thing, and who is a good leader for his club. Once things are on more solid ground, I'll ask him for an article in a future newsletter to discuss what needs to be... it just won't be me!



CY9C St. Paul Island

Randy Rowe NØTG & Murray Adams WA4DAN

Farmville, NC, February 16th, 2019 – The same team that operated as **CY9C** from St Paul Island in 2016 will return as CY9C 1 – 11 August 2019. Transportation arrangements have already been made with Paul Fitzgerald providing the boat transportation and Pat Dolan N2IEN providing helicopter support.

Our 2019 team will again utilize the Northeast Island and Atlantic Cove as the two operational sites. The team will consist of 12 operators and will be primarily the same ops as were there in 2016. This will be an all band/all mode operation, including EME by WW2DX: "We plan on using more space/weight efficient gear for easier transport to and from the island. "For those who remember or perhaps like me, try to forget, the array from the 2016 expedition was destroyed by gale force winds on the 2nd moon pass with only 96 QSO's completed. You can read all the details about the last operation on [my blog](#). This time around a much stronger tri-pod and extra guying will be used to secure the array from the harsh environment."



St. Paul Island, "the graveyard of the Atlantic," is a small uninhabited island located approximately 24 km (15 mi) northeast of [Cape North](#) on [Cape Breton Island](#) and 71 km (44 mi) southwest of [Cape Ray](#) on [Newfoundland](#); it is along the boundary between the [Gulf of St. Lawrence](#) and the [Cabot Strait](#). It is approximately three miles long by one mile wide at its widest point. It is formed of granite and is extremely rugged with its shores being completely encircled by rockface cliffs. It is split by a narrow channel that fills with sea water

The DXpedition website is up and running at: www.cy9c.com

Updates will be on the website as well other pertinent information.

QSL via WA4DAN or ClubLog



Stations around the world will once again be on air to turn the bands green as part of the St. Patrick's Day Award.

The 48-hour annual event will run from 1200 UTC on March 16th until 1200 UTC on March 18th.

A new award will be available to those operating modes requiring software or a computer.

To register as a station or to learn more, [visit](#) the St. Patrick's Day Award website.

—Bobby Wadey MIØRYL

Nostalgia



Hams from the first Pittsburgh Marathon in 1985.

Photo courtesy of Bill Kristoff N3BPB

DX News Briefs



The Rebel DX Group has announced that their vessel, the "Atlantic Tuna" (formerly BYR) has been conducting sea trials for "two or three days" sometime in the 10 day period after 20 February, following an extensive "top to bottom" refurbishment. Presuming that the sea trials "go as expected", a departure date to Bouvet Island for the 3YØI trip will be announced on <https://bouvetoya.org> and <https://www.rebelDXgroup.com>.

PA5X is QRV as **5T5PA** and is expected to be there through August. Look for him on 160 – 6, SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via PA5X

DL5MAE is QRV as **3W2MAE** through 7 March, 80 – 6, CW & SSB. QSL via DL5MAE

6W7/F5NHJ is QRV holiday style through 13 March, primarily on Digital modes with possibly some SSB. More information at <http://f5nhj.fr>. QSL via F5NHJ or ClubLog

EP3CQ is QRV as **6O1OO** through 24 March, in his spare time, 40 – 10, SSB & FT8. "Flash news" is being posted on Twitter via @ep3cq. QSL via his home address, Via Siacci 12, Rome 00197, Italy.

DU6/N6SS is QRV from Panay Island (OC-129) through 17 April, 160 80 & 40, CW FT8 & SSB. QSL via N6SS

G3RWL will be QRV as **8P6DR** from NA-021 13 March – 17 April, holiday style, 80 – 10 on CW with some RTTY. QSL via G3RWL or ClubLog

YJØCA will be QRV from Efate Island (OC-035) from about 26 March – 2 April, 40 20 & 15 with possibly some 10 Meters, SSB Only. QSL via VK2NYA

Seven operators will be QRV as **9M19TEA** 28 – 30 March from Cameron Highland (OJ14CG). Operations will focus on the low bands, but there will be some operation on the WARC and high bands. More information at <http://9mdxc.com/chdx>. QSL via OQRS or the Bureau

6Y5KB will be QRV from NA-097 28 March – 10 April, 40 – 6 including 17 & 12 meters, CW SSB RTTY & FT8. QSL via DL2SBY or OQRS

Multiple operators from the 9A1CBM and 9A1CIG clubs will be QRV as **TO19A** 27 April – 8 May. Activity on all bands with a focus on the low bands. Some SOTA and WFF activities will be included. QSL via 9A2AA

A group of operators will be QRV as 5C9A from Los Farallones Island 25 – 30 July. More information at <https://5c9a.com>. QSL via 18LWL or ClubLog

A35AG will be QRV 22 September – 7 October, holiday style, 160 – 10; 160 activity may be limited. Operations will include the CQWW DX RTTY and Oceania DX SSB contests. More information at <http://vk5gr-iota.net>. QSL via MØOXO or OQRS

QSL Routes

4UØR via UA3DX	HD8M via WB2REM	TM5TT via F4BEV
5C9A via 18LWL	HQ9X via W1UE	TM6HPP via F4GTT
5T5PA via PA5X	HR/F2JD via F6AJA	TO3Z via F6HMQ
6Y5KB via DL2SBY	HSØZFA via DJ4ER	TO5A via WA6WPG
8P1W via KU9C	J68HZ via K9HZ	TR8CR via F6AJA
8P6DR via G3RWL	KP2M via NZ4DX	UE23DSA via RO5F
9G2DX via 4Z4DX	LX7I via LX2A	UE23DZO via RA4DR
9G5AF via 4Z9BDD	P4ØE via K9QVB	V26M via W3HNK
AN1PM via EA1RKA	P44W via N2MM	V3T via WCØW
CB1H via XQ1CY	P49Y via AE6Y	V31CQ via K5PS
CN4M via RW6HS	PJØDX via IZ1MHY	V31DL via DL1AS
CR3DX via OM2VL	PJ2MAN via EC5AHA	V31NC via EA5GL
DAØY via DK5EW	PJ7AA via AA9A	V31VP via WBØTEV
EF5F via EA5FBD	SF5ØCG via SMØBYD	V85AVE via W3HNK
EH5TES via EA5EV	SM6A via SA6AQP	VP2EMB via PY3FYC
EIØNMMI via EI6AL	SN8B via SP8CUR	VP2MMF via KU9C
EI19RE via EI3KD	T31EU via DL2AWG	VP2MSS via K1QX
EM1UA via UT7UA	T32AZ via KH6QJ	XW3DT via RK3DT
FG4KH via F1DUZ	T45FM via RW6HS	ZF1A via K6AM
G6T via MØURX	TM16WAP via F8DHE	ZF2VH via NV9L
HCØE via HC1QRC	TM5OTT via F4SGU	ZR2A via DM5EE

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News Reflector, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, DX Coffee, DX World.Net, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our **DX News** information. Thanks also to the ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McClenny W3UR /The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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Lazaroff & Suhr, Attorneys at Law
277 West Main Street, Saxonburg, PA 16056
Phone: 724-352-4905

The **WASHRag** Masthead is courtesy of Jeff Murray K1NSS, creator of DASHToons & Dash the Dog Faced Ham!!

Find the online cartoons and stories of Dash the Dogfaced Ham & more at <https://www.jeffk1nss.com> !

Shop for Dash items at his online store on Café Press, www.cafepress.com/shopdash



US Amateurs by Class as of March 1st, 2019:

Novice	9,737
Technician	414,473
General	188,151
Advanced	44,035
Extra	153,225
Club	12,690
Total	822,311
All-Time High	02/11/2019 825,088
Last 90 Days:	
New Amateurs	6,997
Callsign Changes	2,193
Class Changes	2,875
No Longer Licensed	6,692
All Updates (*)	28,335

(*) Includes renewals, address changes, etc.

Information gathered from FCC Daily Updates, courtesy of Hamdata.com



If you've downloaded the **WASHRag** from the N3SH web site, or picked up a copy from a friend... you can sign up to have the PDF copy sent directly to your email. You **do NOT** have to be a member of **WASH!**

Just send an email to wa3sh-subscribe@yahoo.com and the automation should take care of the rest!



FCC News

Courtesy of the American Radio Relay League

Newington, CT, February 11th, 2019 — The FCC has invited public comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11826](#)) from an Ohio radio amateur seeking to amend the Part 97 station identification rules to better accommodate and simplify station identification during an emergency net, drill, or activation. ARRL member Robert A. Dukish, KK8DX, filed the petition in December, and the FCC put it on public notice this week. Dukish seeks a change to Section 97.119(a) of the rules, which requires an amateur station to transmit its "assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication."

He noted that during emergency networks, requiring participating stations — often portable — to use their assigned call signs during each transmission could prove "burdensome and can hinder the flow of emergency traffic on the channel."

Specifically, he is suggesting that a simple approach would be to permit the net control station or other designated participant to announce from a single point the call signs of every station taking part in the net or exercise, when tactical call signs often are in use, at 10-minute intervals, using automatic CW identification.

Dukish suggested amending Section 97.119(a) to add, "except during a local emergency network activation or drill," and providing that in such situations, a net control or designations station would be "authorized to announce all participating stations' assigned call signs at no more than 10-minute intervals while the net is in progress." The amendment would provide that participating stations "be within a 50-mile distance of the identifying station, and each individual station must self-identify by transmitting its assigned call sign at least once per hour." CW transmission could be no faster than 25 WPM if sent automatically to satisfy the suggested amendment.

In his petition, Dukish noted petitions filed in 2005 and 2006 seeking changes to the Amateur Radio station identification rules. The FCC did not adopt either proposal.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing Service ([ECFS](#)).

The FCC is reminding electronic device retailers that Supplier's Declaration of Conformity (SDoC) procedures are now in effect and being enforced. In an *FCC Enforcement Advisory* released February 15, the FCC Enforcement Bureau (EB) pointed out that marketers of RF devices may be subject to new compliance requirements provided in the SDoC procedures.

"In general, a device subject to SDoC is one that does not purposely transmit an RF signal for communications purposes, i.e., it does not send voice and/or data to a wireless receiver," the *Advisory* said. Such devices are known as "unintentional radiators," and most devices subject to SDoC are described in Sections 15.101(1) and 18.203 of the FCC rules.

Two separate procedures are in place to address equipment authorization of RF devices — SDoC and Certification. In July of 2017, the FCC amended some rules regarding the authorization of RF equipment, and those changes became effective in November of that year, with a 1-year transition period to phase out two equipment authorization procedures — Verification and Declaration of Conformity — and replace them with SDoC. The transition period ended on November 2, 2018.

According to the FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), the list of devices subject to SDoC covers "equipment that does not contain a radio transmitter and contains only digital circuitry — such as computer peripherals, microwave ovens, ISM [Industrial Scientific Medical] equipment, switching power supplies, LED light bulbs, radio receivers, and TV interface devices." The OET said for equipment that contains *both* unintentional radiators and intentional radiators, the unintentional radiator portion generally may be authorized under either SDoC or certification, while intentional radiators such as radio transmitters, contained in the equipment are typically required to be certified. The OET notes, "Some unintentional radiators do require certification, such as scanning receivers, radar detectors, and access broadband over power line (Access BPL) equipment."

In a separate *Enforcement Advisory* released on February 15th, the FCC cautioned LED sign marketers to comply with FCC rules, noting that the EB has "observed a growing number of companies" marketing noncompliant LED signs. In general, LED sign panels are subject to SDoC procedures.

The OET said it's not necessary that equipment authorized using the SDoC procedure be tested at an FCC-recognized accredited testing laboratory.

Has Roadway found the tower yet?

Two Rivers ARC 48th Annual Hamfest

Sunday, April 7th, 2019, 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

The Boston Spectrum

6001 Smithfield Street, Boston PA 15135

(Off of PA Route 48 near the city of McKeesport)

Talk-in on 146.730 — Mobile Check In 146.52

Admission \$5

More Information at <http://www.trarc.net>



15th Annual Tri-State Radio Fest

Sponsored by the Pittsburgh Antique Radio Society and Buckeye Antique Radio & Phonograph Club

Sunday, April 28th, 2019, 8:30 AM—2:00 PM

Center State Banquet Hall

1495 Old Broadhead Road, Monaca, PA 15061

Flea Market Sales 8:30 to 12:00 Noon

Auction Items Check-In 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon — Auction Starts at Noon

More information: Don Merz (412) 735-4959, Ron Bobner (724) 265-4615 or Jeff Pleva (412) 279-9067

<http://www.pittantiqueradios.org/>

65th Annual BreezeShooters Hamfest & ARRL WPA Section Convention



Saturday, June 1st, 2019 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

& Sunday, June 2nd, 2019 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

at the Big Butler Fairgrounds,

1127 New Castle Road (US 422), Prospect PA 16052

\$10 Per Person Admission Donation Good for Both Days

Indoor Tables & Tailgate / Flea Market Spaces Available

Flea Market spaces \$15 per space, Good for Both Days

Fairgrounds open at 5 AM Saturday & Sunday for Vendor & Tailgate Setup

14 Main Prizes

Half Hour Prizes (based on Admission Tickets)

Indoor Tables \$25 per table and may be reserved by calling (724) 410-1028

Or mail reservations to PO Box 101018, Pittsburgh PA 15237

Table reservation cut-off date May 20th, 2019

Download directions & the latest flyer from the BreezeShooters Web Site at

<http://www.breezeshooters.net> or email hamfest@breezeshooters.org



WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.

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I would like to join WASH! I am interested in the following type of membership: ☐ **New Membership** ☐ **Membership Renewal**

(check quarter
(check one)) →

	<input type="checkbox"/> 1st Qtr Jan-Mar	<input type="checkbox"/> 2nd Qtr Apr-Jun	<input type="checkbox"/> 3rd Qtr Jul-Sept	<input type="checkbox"/> 4th Qtr Oct-Dec
<input type="checkbox"/> (F1) Full Membership:	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> (F2) Full Membership < 18 or > 65 yrs of age:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> (A1) Associate Membership:	\$10.00	\$7.50	\$5.00	\$2.50

☐ (FM1) Family Membership (\$3.00 x No. of household family members): \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Home Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

New Members Only:

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Club E-Mail Reflector

☐ I do NOT want to be added to the Electronic Newsletter Mailing List

[If you have an Email address, you Will be added to both lists UNLESS you choose to Opt-Out]

Signature: _____

Call Sign: _____

License Class: _____

Expires On: _____

Work Phone: _____

Birthday: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No Family ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

N3RDV has requested that all membership requests and renewals include an application so that his information is up to date

Please make your check or money order payable to the club treasurer, Mark Stabryla.
The Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc. reserves the right to accept or reject new memberships or renewals.
Please return completed membership form along with check/money order to the club treasurer or mail to:

WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.
c/o Mark Stabryla N3RDV, VP/Treasurer
1120 McKnight Drive
Bethel Park, PA 15102-2456



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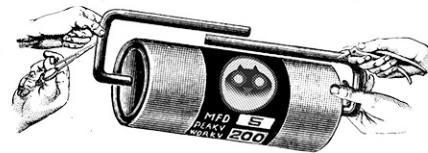
The Daily DX, 3025 Hobbs Road,
Glenwood, MD 21738 Phone: 301-854-5650



Arghh!
What Mightst We Draw For Ye, Matey?



HANDMADE BY GNOMES.

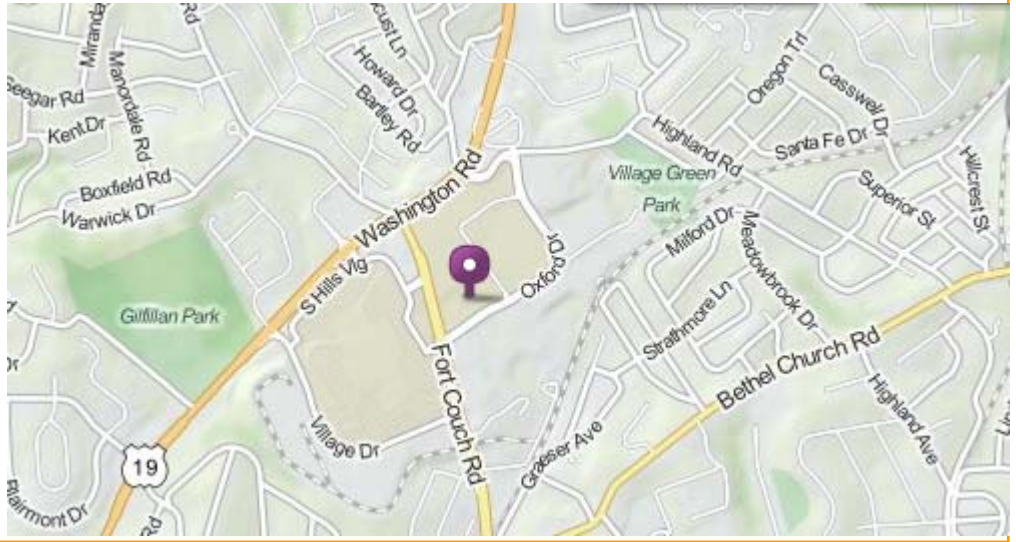
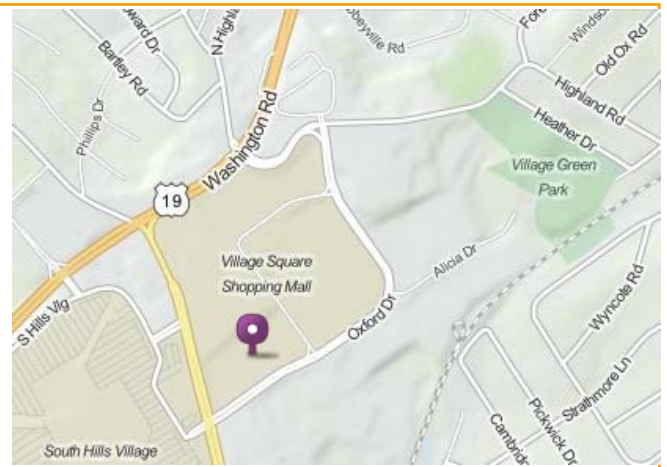


2019 WASH Meeting Location

St. Clair Hospital Outpatient Center Conference Room

2000 Oxford Drive, Bethel Park PA 15102

Adjacent to Village Square Mall, across Ft. Couch Road from
South Hills Village Mall, just off of US Route 19



The WASHRag

Wireless Association of South Hills, Inc.

Ron Notarius W3WN, Editor

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